

JANE DEE HULL
Governor



SHELDON R. JONES
Director

Arizona Department of Agriculture

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February 3, 2000

FDA
FDA/Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
5630 Fishers Lane Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

(Docket No. 97N-0074)

USDA/FSIS
USDA/FSIS Hearing Clerk
300 12th Street, S.W.
Rm. 102 Cotton Annex
Washington, D. C. 20250-3700

(Docket No. 98-045N)

The following comments relate to Docket Nos. 97N-0074 and 98-045N:

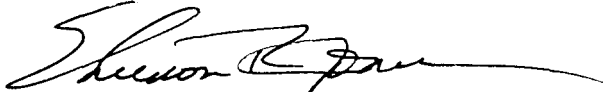
With regard to the President's Council on Food Safety's draft strategic plan, the Arizona Department of Agriculture (ADA) agrees that microbial contamination should be the main focus of any comprehensive food safety program. The ADA also favors efforts to maximize cooperation of existing agencies charged with ensuring a wholesome food supply at all levels of government. While research indicates fewer people eat at home, the ADA believes consumer education is critical for food safety efforts. Many food related illnesses continue to result from poor preparation practices at home.

Pesticides impact both the U.S. food supply and our environment. Any proposal to modify existing pesticide programs needs to consider the conflicts that could result if separate federal agencies became involved. One agency could find itself working from a food safety perspective, while another agency remains focused on environmental protection. Such a disconnect does not serve the public.

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Please contact Dr. Edwin Minch at (602) 542-0954 if you have any questions about ADA's position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sheldon R. Jones", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sheldon R. Jones
Director

SRJ:JP:EM:jg

C: Governor Jane Dee Hull
Senator John McCain
Senator Jon Kyl
Congressman Matt Salmon
Congressman Ed Pastor
Congressman Bob Stump
Congressman John Shadegg
Congressman Jim Kolbe
Congressman J. D. Hayworth
Jack Peterson, Associate Director
Dr. Edwin Minch